

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A zip fastener device ~~for joining~~ configured to join two strips comprising two rows of teeth ~~able~~ configured to mutually engage with each other ~~mutually~~ under the action of a slider and applied respectively to one of the edges of each of the ~~said~~ two strips, the material of ~~at least one of the two strips being of the leather or simulation leather type, characterised in that the said strip is~~ wherein the two strips are formed by a piece folded in two, ~~in that the~~ an area forming a fold is filled longitudinally with a rod of chosen thickness, and ~~in that the teeth are applied at least partially around the said fold area thus filled,~~ wherein the zip fastener forms a wall of an article on which the zip fastener is disposed.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A device according to ~~one of Claims 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the two parts of the piece folded in two forming the ~~strip~~ two strips are adhesively bonded to each other.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A device according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the rod is produced from a material belonging to the group formed by cotton, linen, plastics material or a non-woven material.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): A method of producing a zip fastener device of the type comprising the following steps:

- a) providing two strips (2 and 3);

- b) applying a row of teeth (4 and 5) to one (7 and 8) of the edges of each of the said strips (2 and 3), the two rows of teeth (4 and 5) being able to engage with each other mutually under the action of a slider (6),
characterised in that step a) makes provision for producing at least one of the two strips (2 and 3) from a material of the leather or simulation leather type.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A method according to Claim 5, characterised in that step a) makes provision for producing the two strips (2 and 3) from a material of the leather or simulation leather type.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): A method according to Claim 5 or Claim 6, characterised in that it comprises a step of treatment of the strips (2 and 3) of the slitting type for evening up the thickness of the said strips.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A method according to Claim 6 or Claim 7, characterised in that step a) comprises the following steps:

- a1) forming each strip of leather or simulation leather (2 and 3) from a piece (9) folded in two parts (12 and 13), and
- a2) longitudinally filling the area forming a fold (10) with a rod (11) of chosen thickness until the rod is placed inside the area forming a fold.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A method according to Claim 8, characterised in that step a) also comprises step a3) consisting, after step a2), of adhesively bonding to each other the two parts (12 and 13) of the piece (9) forming the strip (2 and 3).

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A method according to Claim 8 or Claim 9, characterised in that step b) consists of applying the teeth (4 and 5) at least partially around the area forming a fold (10) thus filled.

Claims 11 - 12 (Canceled).